

~~SECRET~~ USSR

OLC 75-1276

2 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DD/S&T Briefing of Richard Pearle and Dorothy Fosdick

I accompanied Carl Duckett to a briefing of Dorothy Fosdick and Richard Pearle this morning to bring them up to date on the most recent developments with respect to Soviet strategic weapons programs. Mr. Duckett said there was very little new in this area, but did mention that the Soviets have discontinued their use of Henhouse Radar in an ABM mode; and the most recent SALT consultative commission meetings had indicated that this was a closed subject. Pearle took issue with leaving this matter in this posture as did Miss Fosdick. Both feel that the U.S. should continue to press the Soviets on this subject. Otherwise, the Soviets could conduct testing programs which might otherwise be banned under the SALT agreement and discontinue them without further accountability when they have served their purposes.

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Mr. Duckett described Soviet activity in building a new laser unit which he said causes us considerable concern. He said we have established an R&D project to see what we can find out about the usage of such a system.

As an outgrowth of Duckett's briefing on the Soviet Backfire Aircraft, Pearle asked for our unit cost estimate of this plane. I told them I would get this information to them.

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Legislative Counsel

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